

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7233
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 4175

DAR PASS USAID AND RDOEA FOR RAMSAY

DEPARTMENT PASS AID/W

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, KE
SUBJECT: FUTURE USG ASSISTANCE TO EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

REF: (A) DAR ES SALAAM 1368, (B) NAIROBI 3697 (NOTAL),
(C) STATE 43059

1. EMBASSY/USAID HAVE REVIEWED CAREFULLY REF A'S PROPOSED
REVISIONS TO RAMSAY'S RECOMMENDATIONS (REF B) AND HAVE THE
FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO MAKE:

A. REF A SEEMS TO ASSUME THAT APPROVAL OF EAC BUDGET WOULD
BE GOOD INDICATION THAT COMMUNITY WILL REMAIN VIABLE ORGANIZATION.
IN CONTRAST WE BELIEVE BUDGET APPROVAL NOT MEANINGFUL
IF FINANCIAL RESOURCES SUBSEQUENTLY ARE NOT MADE AVAILABLE.
UNWILLINGNESS EAC PARTNERS TO TRANSFER RESOURCES IS
PROBLEM WHICH HAS PLAGUED COMMUNITY AND ITS CORPORATIONS FOR
SEVERAL YEARS. GIVEN CURRENT STATUS EAC, WITH UGANDA NOT BEING
ACTIVE PARTNER AND DISMANTLING OF CORPORATIONS BY OTHER
TWO PARTNERS, AN ATMOSPHERE EXISTS WHICH IN OUR VIEW CALLS
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VALIDITY OF BUDGET APPROVAL EVEN MORE SERIOUSLY INTO QUESTION
AND WHICH MAKES ADEQUACY OF FUTURE FUNDING AVAILABILITIES
HIGHLY IMPROBABLE.

B. QUESTIONS OF CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF COMMUNITY AND
CONTINUATION OF ASSISTANCE BENEFITING EAC, WE BELIEVE,
DISTINCTLY SEPARATE FROM THAT OF CONTINUED OPERATION RDOEA

OFFICE. PER REF B, PARA 3, TWO AID-FUNDED EAC RESEARCH PROJECTS WERE RE-DESIGNED IN EARLY CY 1975 SO THAT RESEARCH COULD CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED IRREGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENS TO COMMUNITY. REF B'S PROPOSALS TO TRANSFER PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR THESE TWO ACTIVITIES TO USAID/KENYA DO NOT CHANGE PROJECTS' CURRENT MANNER OF OPERATION OR THE BENEFICIARY, I.E. EAC. THEREFORE, U.S. ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITY WILL CONTINUE UNABATED AS LONG AS EAC EXISTS NO MATTER FROM WHERE PROJECTS ARE MANAGED.

C. EMBASSY/USAID FURTHER BELIEVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT FUNCTION SEPARATE FROM THAT OF GENERAL LIAISON WITH COMMUNITY HEAD-QUARTERS. GENERAL LIAISON, WHICH RAMSAY SAYS HAS BEEN MINOR PART HIS RESPONSIBILITIES, CAN BE PERFORMED BY USAID/DAR OFFICER RESIDENT IN ARUSHA. PROJECT-SPECIFIC LIAISON, OF COURSE, MUST BE CARRIED OUT BY PROJECT MANAGER. THAT MAJORITY FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE RESEARCH OPERATIONS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT IN KENYA PER REF B ARGUES FOR ASSIGNMENT PROJECT MANAGERMENT RESPONSIBILITIES TO USAID/K. (THIS CONCLUSION FURTHER SUPPORTED BY EXISTING ASSIGNMENT OF USAID/K OF LOGISTIC/ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RDOEA OFFICE.) WE DOUBT THAT EAC OFFICIALS WILL DISTINGUISH BETWEEN AID PROJECT MANAGER AND AID GENERAL LIAISON PERSON ON BASIS LOCUS OF RESIDENCE BUT INSTEAD WILL VIEW THEM AS REPRESENTATIVES OF AID.

D. AS LONG AS U.S. ASSISTANCE TO EAC CONTINUES AND AID LIAISON MAINTAINED WITH COMMUNITY HEADQUARTERS, EMBASSY/USAID SEE NO BASIS FOR REF A'S CONCERN THAT GOT MAY INTERPRET CLOSURE OF RDOEA OFFICE AT RAMSAY'S RETIREMENT AS
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MEANING U.S. SUPPORT FOR EAST AFRICAN COOPERATION HAS DIMINISHED OR THERE IS PRO-KENYA BIAS IN USG'S ACTION. FOR GOT TO INTERPRET OFFICE CLOSURE AS HAVING SUCH BIAS WOULD SEEM TO BE UNREASONABLE, ESPECIALLY SINCE GOK ACCEPTED ESTABLISHMENT RDOEA IN TANZANIA (WHICH ACTION INVOLVED OFFICE'S TRANSFER FROM KENYA) IN FIRST PLACE WITHOUT READING INTO THAT ACT ANY U.S. FAVORITISM TOWARD TANZANIA.

E. POSTPONING DECISION ON CLOSURE RDOEA OFFICE UNTIL AFTER JULY 1 TO AWAIT EAC BUDGET APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL WOULD ONLY PROLONG OUR OWN UNCERTAINTY ABOUT HOW U.S. TO PROCEED UPON RAMSAY'S DEPARTURE, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND INFORMALLY MAY NOT NOW OCCURE UNTIL AUGUST. IT ALSO POSSIBLE THAT COURSE OF ACTION MAY BE NOT MUCH CLEARER IN JULY THAN IT NOW IS. SUCH DELAY MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR RAMSAY AS WELL AS AID TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTIONS IN TIMELY FASHION WHICH MUST FOLLOW FROM WHATEVER DECISION FINALLY MADE.

2. GIVEN ALL OF ABOVE AND UNCERTAIN PROSPECTS FOR EAC,

EMBASSY/USAID BELIEVE RDOEA SHOULD BE CLOSED AT TIME OF RAMSAY'S DEPARTURE AND HIS PROJECT MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS BE TRANSFERRED TO USAID/K. LIAISON WITH EAC HQ ON MATTERS OF GENERAL CONCERN SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY USAID/DAR, BUT PROJECT MANAGER MUST LIAISE WITH HQ ON PROJECT-SPECIFIC MATTERS. AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE PROJECT MANAGER WILL LIAISE WITH USAID/DAR. PROJECTS SHOULD CONTINUE AS CURRENTLY DESIGNED AND SHOULD EAC DISSOLVE, THEY SHOULD BE SPLIT UP BETWEEN GOK AND GOT MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND BECOME BILATERAL PROJECTS PER REF B. FINALLY, USAID/K SHOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE AS LONG AS NEEDED ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO RDOEA.
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